

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please AMEND the Title of the Invention on page one (1) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

FROM:        ~~HINGE DEVICE AND ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT USING THE HINGE DEVICE~~

TO:           ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT

Please AMEND the first paragraph after the heading TECHNICAL FIELD on page one (1) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

-- The present invention relates to a ~~hinge device and an electronic instrument such as a note type personal computer, a mobile phone or the like using the hinge device.~~--

Please AMEND paragraph two (2) on page two (2) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

-- The present applicant has developed a ~~novel hinge device and an electronic instrument using the hinge device~~ that has an extremely high commercial value by the results of accumulated try and error to enhance the practical use aspect of the electronic equipment that is of the type that may be rotated in the horizontal direction.

Please AMEND paragraph four (4) after the heading DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION on page two (2) of the Specification in the instant application as follows:

-- The invention is directed to ~~a hinge device for pivoting a first member 1 and a second member 2,~~ an electronic instrument composed by pivoting a first member 1 provided with a display portion 1a to a second member 2, provided with an operating portion 2a and connected electrically to the first member 1 through wirings or the like, through a hinge device to be rotatable substantially in the horizontal direction, said hinge device characterized in that ~~in which~~ a first coupling member 3 having a shaft portion 5 is provided in one of said first member 1 and said second member 2, a second coupling member 4 having a bearing hole portion 6 for bearing said shaft portion 5 is provided in the other member, said first coupling member 3 and said second coupling member 4 are coupled with each other through the shaft portion 5 to be rotatable relative to each other so that the first member 1 may be rotated through the shaft portion 5 relative to the second member 2 in any direction of right and left directions, and an excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 for preventing relative excessive rotation of the first member 1 in any direction of the right and left directions relative to the second member 2 is provided, the excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 ~~is characterized in that~~ fits around a an annular rotary member 8 is provided to be rotatable in any direction of the right and left directions relative to said shaft portion 5, a first abutment retainer mechanism 9 is provided in which an abutment portion 12 with which a projection 8a provided on said rotary member 8 is brought into abutment is formed to project from a circumferential surface of the shaft portion 5 and in which the abutment portion 12 is abutted against and retained at the projection 8a even if the first coupling member 3 or the second coupling member 4 is rotated in any direction of the right and left directions so that said rotary member 8 is cooperatively rotated in the right and left directions together with the shaft portion 5, a second abutment retainer mechanism 10, in which a projecting portion is formed to project from a surface of the second coupling member 4 in which said projection 8a is abutted and retained and said abutment portion 12 is not abutted but allows the upward passage when said shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 are rotated together in any direction of the right and left directions, and said projection 8a abuts against and retained at the projecting portion to thereby prevent the cooperative rotation, is provided in said rotary

member 8 and said second coupling member 4, and said excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 is adapted to prevent the horizontal rotation of the first member 1 in a position where the first member 1 is directed to a real back side from a position where the first member 1 is directed to a real frontal side even if the first member 1 is rotated in any direction of the right and left directions in the horizontal direction to said second member 2. the first coupling member 3 or the second coupling member 4 is abutted against and retained at the rotary member 8 and the first coupling member 3 or the second coupling member 4 even when it rotates in any direction of the right and left directions so that the rotary member 8 is rotated together in the right and left directions and a second abutment retainer mechanism 10 for preventing, by abutment retention, the cooperative rotation even when the first coupling member 3 or the second coupling member 4 and the said rotary member 8 are rotated in any direction of the right and left directions is provided in the first rotary member 8 and the second coupling member 4 or the first coupling member 3.

Please AMEND paragraph two (2) on page three (3) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

Also, the invention relates to the ~~hinge device~~ electronic instrument according to claim 1, wherein the excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 fits an annular rotary member 8 that is rotatable relative to said shaft portion 5 in any direction of the right and left directions, a first abutment portion 12 for being abutted against and retained at the respective right and left side portions of a first retainer portion 11 a projection 8a provided in said rotary member 8 when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 is rotated in the respective right and left directions is provided in said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 to project from a circumferential surface of said shaft portion 5 and said first abutment portion 12 is abutted against and retained at the right and left side portions of the first retainer portion 11 projection 8a, so that said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 may be rotated in any direction of the right and left directions

together to form said first abutment retainer mechanism 9, a second abutment retainer mechanism 10 is provided for preventing the cooperative rotation between the rotary member 8 and the shaft portion 5 by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9, said second abutment retainer mechanism 10 has a second abutment portion 14 formed to project from a surface of said second coupling member 4 for allowing an upward passage without abutting against the first abutment portion 12 while being retained at one side portion of right and left side portion of the projection 8a provided on said rotary member 8 when said shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 are rotated together in any one direction of said right and left directions, and a third abutment portion 15 is formed to project from a surface of said second coupling member 4 for allowing upward passage without the first abutment portion 12 abutting against and for being abutted against and retained at a side portion of the opposite side to the side portion for being abutted against the second abutment portion 14 out of the right and left side portions of the projection 8a provided on said rotary member 8 when the shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 are rotated in any direction together in the right and left direction. ~~a second abutment portion 14 for being abutted against and retained at one side portion of right and left side portions of a second retainer portion 13 provided in said rotary member 8 to prevent the cooperative rotation when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 and said rotary member 8 are rotated in any direction of the right and left directions by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9, and a third abutment portion 15 for being abutted against and retained at a side portion on the opposite side to the side portion against which said second abutment portion 14 is abutted and at which said second abutment portion 14 is retained out of the right and left side portions of the second retainer portion 13 provided in said rotary member 8 to prevent the cooperative rotation when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 and said rotary member 8 are rotated together in any direction of the right and left directions is provided in said second coupling member 4 or said first coupling member 3 to form said second abutment retainer mechanism 10.~~

Please AMEND paragraph three (3) on page five (3) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

Also, the invention relates to the ~~hinge device~~electronic instrument according to claim 2, wherein a position where the first abutment portion 12 provided in ~~said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4~~shaft portion 5 is rotation-stopped by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9 and said second abutment retainer mechanism 10 when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 is rotated in the left direction and a position where the first abutment portion 12 provided in ~~said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4~~shaft portion 5 is rotation-stopped by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9 and said second abutment retainer mechanism 10 when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 is rotated in the right direction are identified with each other.

Please AMEND paragraph two (2) on page four (4) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

Also, the invention relates to an electronic instrument composed by pivoting a first member 1 provided with a display portion 1a to a second member 2, provided with an operating portion 2a and connected electrically to the first member 1 through wirings or the like, through a hinge device to be rotatable substantially in the horizontal direction, said hinge device characterized in that a first coupling member 3 having a shaft portion 5 in one of said first member 1 and said second member 2 is provided, a second coupling member 4 having a bearing hole portion 6 for bearing said shaft portion 5 in the other member, said first coupling member 3 and said second coupling member 4 are coupled with each other through the shaft portion 5 to be rotatable relative to each other so that the first member 1 may be rotated through the shaft portion 5 relative to the second member 2 in any direction of right and left directions, and an excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 for preventing relative excessive rotation of the first member 1 in any direction of the right and left directions relative to the second member 2 is

provided, the excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 fits an annular rotary member 8 that is rotatable relative to said shaft portion 5 in any direction of the right and left directions, a first abutment portion 12 for being abutted against and retained at the respective right and left side portions of a projection 8a provided in said rotary member 8 when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 is rotated in the respective right and left directions is provided to project from a circumferential surface of said shaft portion 5 and said first abutment portion 12 is abutted against and retained at the right and left side portions of the projection 8a, so that said shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 may be rotated in any direction of the right and left directions together to form said first abutment retainer mechanism 9, a second abutment retainer mechanism 10 is provided for preventing the cooperative rotation between the rotary member 8 and the shaft portion 5 by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9, said second abutment retainer mechanism 10 has a second abutment portion 14 formed to project from a surface of said second coupling member 4 for allowing an upward passage without abutting against the first abutment portion 12 while being retained at one side portion of right and left side portion of the projection 8a provided on said rotary member 8 when said shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 are rotated together in any one direction of said right and left directions, and a third abutment portion 15 is formed to project from a surface of said second coupling member 4 for allowing upward passage without the first abutment portion 12 abutting against and for being abutted against and retained at a side portion of the opposite side to the side portion for being abutted against the second abutment portion 14 out of the right and left side portions of the projection 8a provided on said rotary member 8 when the shaft portion 5 and said rotary member 8 are rotated in any direction together in the right and left direction, wherein a position where the first abutment portion 12 provided in said shaft portion 5 is rotation-stopped by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9 and said second abutment retainer mechanism 10 when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 is rotated in the left direction and a position where the first abutment portion 12 provided in said shaft portion 5 is rotation-stopped by said first abutment retainer mechanism 9 and said second abutment retainer mechanism 10 when said first coupling member 3 or said second coupling member 4 is rotated in the right direction are identified with each other, and said excessive rotation preventing mechanism 7 is adapted to prevent the horizontal rotation of the first member 1 in a position where the first

member 1 is directed to a real back side from a position where the first member 1 is directed to a real frontal side even if the first member 1 is rotated in any direction of the right and left directions to said second member 2. ~~the invention relates to an electronic instrument in which the hinge device according to any one of claims 1 to 3 is provided in a pivot portion.~~

Please AMEND paragraph three (3) on page four (4) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

With the structure of the present invention as described above, it is possible to rotate the first member relative to the second member in any direction of the right and left direction, and not only is it possible to simply attain the relative rotation but also by providing the function to prevent the excessive rotation, it is possible to considerably enhance the performance of the electronic equipment that is of the horizontal rotation, for example, thereby providing a ~~novel hinge device~~ a novel electronic instrument that is extremely high in practical use and an ~~electronic instrument having the hinge device.~~

Please AMEND paragraph four (4) on page four (4) of the Specification in the instant application to read as follows:

Also, the hinge device is constructed as described in the invention defined in claims 2 or 3 so that not only may the excessive rotation be prevented but also, for example, it is possible to provide a ~~novel hinge device~~ novel electronic instrument that may realize without failure the excessive rotation preventing function to enhance the practical use of the electronic equipment that may perform the horizontal rotation.